

Message Text

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51

ACTION ARA-20

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USIA-15 EUR-25 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00

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SUBJ: EL PAIS'S EDITORIAL ON THE WASHINGTON FOREIGN MINISTERS'
CONFERENCE

1. FOLLOWING IS A SYNOPSIS OF INFLUENTIAL CONSERVATIVE EL PAIS'S
APRIL 13 EDITORIAL ENTITLED: "WAITING FOR GODOT, OR THE TRUNCATED
DIALOGUE".

2. THE LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS ARRIVED IN THE UNITED
STATES AND DISCOVERED THAT THEY WERE ATTENDING THE WRONG
MEETING AT THE WRONG TIME. THE NEXT MEETING, ACCORDING TO EL
PAIS, WILL BE HELD IN BUENOS AIRES, BUT THE LATIN AMERICANS
HAD NO PART IN DECIDING THIS; IT WAS DONE BY RESOLUTION OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE. IF THIS IS THE TONE OF THE SO-CALLED NEW
DIALOGUE ENCOUNTERED IN THE TLATELOLCO CONVERSATIONS, ONE HEARS
LITTLE AND FEELS LESS OF THE SUPPOSED CHANGE.

3. THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA
ARE ROOTED IN THE POSITIONS WHICH THEY DO OR DO NOT ADOPT, AND
NOT IN THE TONE OF THE DIALOGUE. THE DOCUMENTS SIGNED AT
TLATELOLCO CONTAIN NOTHING SUBSTANTIAL. ONE HAD HOPED FOR
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BETTER THINGS FROM THE WASHINTTON CONFERENCE TO BE HELD

APRIL 17 AND 18, BUT NOW IT IS KNOWN THAT NO PROGRESS WILL BE MADE THERE ON THE TOPICS RAISED IN MEXICO. KISSINGER WILL BE PRESENT AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE, AND THE IMPORTANT DECISIONS WILL BE LEFT FOR BUENOS AIRES. IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT DURING THE PREPARATORY MEETINGS BETWEEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH AND THE LATIN AMERICAN AMBASSADORS, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO REACH CONCRETE DECISIONS ON ANY OF THE POINTS OF THE TLATELOLCO AGENDA.

4. WASHINGTON'S ANNOYING ATTITUDE HAS LEFT THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REST OF AMERICA IN A DIFFICULT POSITION. KISSINGER SAID REPEATEDLY THAT THE AGE OF PATERNALISM AND DEPENDENCY HAD ENDED, AND BECUASE THIS ROUNDLY OFFENSIVE STATEMENT WAS ACCEPTED IN SILENCE, KISSINGER FEELS THAT HE CAN PROLONG THE STATE OF AFFIARS FOR SOME MONTHS.

5. LATIN AMERICA HAS AN INEXPLICABLE INCLINATION TOWARD ADOPTING THE ROLE OF POSTULANT IN INTERNATIONAL AFFIARS. WE OUGHT TO KEEP IN MIND WHAT WE ARE WORTH IN INTERNATIGVAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND WHAT WE REPRESENT BECAUSE OF THE PRIDE AND EVOLUTION OF OUR RACE. THE RICH COUNTRIES NEED US AS CONSUMERS AND SUPPLIERS AND FOR OUR INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES. THE ATTITUDE OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE EPISODE WHICH WE HAVE MENTIONED AN BE POINTED OUT AS WITHOUT PRECEDENCE IN THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN RELATIONS AND DOES NOT DIFFER MUCH FROM THE ARROGANCE WITH WHICH THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY RECENTLY TREATED US.

6. ONLY THROUGH A VERY FIRM CONCRETE LATIN AMERICAN UNITY CAN WE FIND VALUE IN RELATIONS WITH OTHER BLOCKS. TODAY LATIN AMERICA PRODUCES ALMOST EVERYTHING THAT IT NEEDS. WE HAVE TO BE WILLING TO AUGMENT OUR INTRA-ZONAL TRADE CONSIDERABLY AND TO REDUCE OUR UTILIZATION OF SERVICES PRESENTLY OFFERED BY THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. IF WE FOLLOW THIS COURSE OF ACTION, WE OURSELVES CAN FIX THE DATE AND TIME OF MEETINGS. IF NOT, WE WILL CONTINUE TO BE KEPT WAITING.

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH EL PAIS FREQUENTLY DOES REFLECT GOVERNMENT ATTITUDES, ITS EDITORIAL DOES NOT REFLECT THE OPINIONS OF RANKING FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS. NO OTHER NEWSPAPERS HAVE COMMENTED ON THE WASHINGTON MEETINGS.

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